



Name _____

SS# _____

Midwest Folk Fair Project

Folkways are “the unofficial traditions of a people that are passed on informally from person to person or from one generation to another.” In the Midwest, many groups such as Native Americans, Germans, Ukrainians, and cowboys have contributed to folk art and culture. These traditions are often celebrated at folk fairs and festivals.

Your job: Create a product for our Midwest Folk Fair.

Choices:

1. **Create a traditional Midwest quilt.** Your quilt may be cut out fabric or a detailed drawing. Use colors and patterns that are typical of Midwestern Amish quilts.
2. **Write and perform a traditional folk song.** Both the lyrics and music should reflect typical Midwestern folk songs. You may record your song or perform it out loud. The lyrics should be about one page total.
3. **Make a traditional folk toy.** Your toy should be a replica or variation of a typical folk toy.
4. **Write a tall tale.** The content should reflect the geography of the Midwest and the typical genre traits of a tall tale. Your story should be about two pages, double-spaced, size 12 font.
5. **Make a folk drawing/painting.** This should reflect the environment of the Midwest and the color palette and style of traditional folk art.

Your product will be on display at our Midwest Folk Fair. You may work alone or in a group of up to three people.

Since fairs display cards explaining the products, each group should answer the following:

Name and explain two ways this product reflects the physical geography (landforms, waterforms, natural resources) or human geography (countries people came from, layout of towns) of the Midwest.

1.

2.

Example: I did a traditional polka dance. Because there wasn't a lot of wood to make houses in on the Great Plains, people often lived close together in towns so the building materials only had to be shipped to one place. Dances were a way for people to get together and have fun in these towns.

Name and describe two ways your project reflects traditional midwest quilts, folk songs, folk toys, tall tales, or art.

1.

2.

Example: In my dance you can hear the accordion and banjo in the background, and these two instruments were usually used in Midwestern Polka.

Research sources:

<http://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/doc/egp.fol.000.xml>

Quilts: <http://folkartmuseum.org/exhibitions/midwestern-amish-quilts/>
<http://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/doc/egp.fol.037> Article about quilts.

Music: <http://www.folkways.si.edu/loman-cansler/folksongs-of-the-midwest/american-folk/music/album/smithsonian>

Can listen to samples.

<http://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/doc/egp.fol.015> Information about different types of stories.

Art: <http://folkart.org/taxonomy/term/32>

Links to different museums.

<http://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/doc/egp.fol.012> Article about folk art.

Toys: <http://www.homesteadtoys.com/AmericanFolkToys.html>

<http://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/doc/egp.fol.018>

Tall Tales- Paul Bunyan

<http://paulbunyantrail.com/talltale.html>

<http://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/doc/egp.fol.019>